

Connecticut General Assembly  
Appropriations Subcommittee on Elementary and Secondary Education  
Public Hearing  
March 3rd, 2015  
Testimony of Prasad Malpure, of Manchester, Connecticut

Thank you Senator Slossberg, Representative Fleischmann and members of the Committee, for the opportunity to testify today.

On the evening of 30<sup>th</sup> Aug 2012, I received a phone call from the Principal of International Magnet School that my daughter has been selected through lottery for 2<sup>nd</sup> grade. It was like winning the jackpot after trying for 5 consecutive years and attending so many open houses at so many different schools.

At the International Magnet School for Global Citizenship, my daughter discovered the interconnectedness of the world through the arts, foreign language and multicultural education. Being in International Baccalaureate School, its emphasis is to create internationally minded students who can create a better, more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect.

This school has monthly assemblies to recognize students for demonstrating social attributes. These assemblies are run by students. I have been in the assembly run by my daughter. I was very proud on that day the way my daughter handled the assembly speaking confidently in front of such a large group of students, parents and teachers. At that time she was just 8 years old. This is just amazing! I have seen many programs like invention convention, after school enrichment, Saturday Academy, Summer school, music bands, talent show and international fair etc. which distinguish this school from any other public school.

This year my son got the admission in PK3 in the same school!. We are lucky that our son will also get the same opportunity to achieve the progress that we are seeing in our daughter. Charging the fees for Pre-kindergarten students on the basis that parents use this facility to save day care expenses and then taking them out of the school in kindergarten, is totally unfair claim. Why, then, are parents making so many efforts daily to drop off and pick up their students, no matter how long the commute? Because they are getting the best education system available. Why we will take them away from that? This is simply not understandable.

In today's digital age, the world is coming closer and closer. Diversified education is the key to being successful 21st century citizens who understand that other people, with their differences, can also be right. I urge all the legislators to continue funding increase to these magnet schools like any other public school, so these schools will be able to provide the best integrated education to our children.